



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County  
Minutes of the Veterans Committee**

**Wednesday, July 24, 2019**

**9:45 AM**

**Cook County Building, Board Room  
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Tobolski, Johnson, Arroyo, Daley, Deer, Lowry and Suffredin (7)

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

**1. Mark Armstrong**

19-4728

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 02/20/2019

**A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Arroyo, to approve 19-4728. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Tobolski, Johnson, Arroyo, Daley, Deer, Lowry and Suffredin (7)

19-3108

**Sponsored by:** LUIS ARROYO JR, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE ILLINOIS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO COSPONSOR AND SUPPORT H.R. 96 (VETERAN'S DENTAL CARE)**

**WHEREAS,** The purpose of the Veteran's Administration is, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "To care

for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan"; and

**WHEREAS**, The Veterans Administration provides health care to many Veterans through its 1,250 health care facilities, including 172 VA Medical Centers and 1,069 outpatient sites of care of varying complexity; and

**WHEREAS**, After serving our Country, our Veterans have earned the very best healthcare possible, something the Veteran's Administrations has pledged to provide; and

**WHEREAS**, Despite providing various types of healthcare to over 9 million Veterans, the Veteran's Health Administration (VHA) fails to provide dental care to most of those Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the VHA's own statistics, while over 9 million Veterans are eligible for healthcare under the VHA, only about 500,000, or 5.6%, of those are receiving dental care, as the qualifications require a Veteran to be 100% disabled or have been a POW to receive full dental care; and

**WHEREAS**, While Veterans are able to purchase dental insurance through the VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP), it is not an affordable option, leaving Veterans with no other choice but to walk around with rotted teeth and other signs of a lack of dental care; and

**WHEREAS**, Dental health has been proven to affect other aspects of health including cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes and more. Good dental care can prevent many of these diseases, leading the VA to save money on treating future diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the 2016 Oral Health in Illinois Report, in 2015, over one third of adults in Illinois (36%) reported not having visited the dentist in the past year, with lack of insurance being one of the barriers to dental care; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 96 introduced by U.S. Rep. Julia Brownley would amend Title 38, USC, to require the Veteran's Administration to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service, giving more Veterans access to full dental care that they severely need; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize the right of all Veterans to have full coverage for dental care; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners urges the Illinois Congressional Delegation to sign on as co-sponsors to H.R. 96 and support it in any manner possible to ensure that our Veterans receive the proper and sufficient dental care that they deserve; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and copies of this resolution be presented to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, and U.S. Representative Bobby Rush as representatives of the delegation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Suffredin, to recommend for approval 19-3108. The motion carried by the following vote:


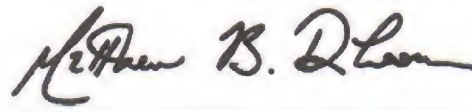
Ayes: Tobolski, Johnson, Arroyo, Daley, Deer, Lowry and Suffredin (7)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Tobolski, Johnson, Arroyo, Daley, Deer, Lowry and Suffredin (7)

Respectfully submitted,

  
Chairman  
Secretary

A video recording of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>.